



# THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF HADDONFIELD

## *Greenfield Hall*

Vol. 34 No. 3

343 Kings Highway East, Haddonfield, NJ 08033

August, 1990

### **GENERAL MEETING - SEPTEMBER 20, 1990**

Our next scheduled general meeting is for Thursday, September 20, 1990 at 8 P.M. in Greenfield Hall. We are pleased to announce that our speaker for this meeting will be Mr. Dennis Raible of Collingswood. Mr. Raible, who grew up in Oaklyn, New Jersey and presently lives in Collingswood, is the author of the recently published book, "*The First Three Hundred Years: Haddon Township's Hopkins Plantation.*" The book focuses on the Hopkins House which is Haddon Township's most historic house as well as the development of Collingswood and Haddon Township.

Mr. Raible is an accountant and a teacher in the School of Business at Saint Joseph's University, Philadelphia, but history is his avocation. His particular interest in the Hopkins House is rather obvious. His present home is on the last tract of what was originally the farm to which the Hopkins House belonged. The first edition of his book is almost completely sold and only a few copies remain. However, there are plans for a second edition.

Please join us--and bring a friend!

### **FALL AUCTION - 1990**

Please circle Saturday, October 6, 1990 on your calendars as a day to look forward to for fun, comradeship, and a few good buys. This year's auction will begin at 10 A.M. and feature our ever popular auctioneers Bills Reynolds and Frank Moore demonstrating their skills at keeping hopeful bidders at the edge of their seats.

To ensure the total success of this event, we ask you to consider looking through your attic, basement, and every nook and cranny of your home for auctionable items (furniture, china, glassware, linens, silver, jewelry, art, unusual books or newspapers, etc.) If you have some special article which you would prefer to have auctioned on a consignment basis, this too can be arranged for items with a value of \$100 or greater. You will be able to set the minimum bid and 20% of the proceeds will go to the Society, which will be most appreciated.

If you have a donation, please call either Katherine Febish, this year's chairperson, at 429-5204 at Dot Sherred at 429-6242.

### **LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE**

The Long Range Planning committee has been meeting regularly since being appointed in January of this year. Their task is to develop a written long range plan for the society. This will be a comprehensive plan which will clearly define our purposes and mission as well as outline very specific goals and objectives. This is not a one or two year plan, but rather one with longer vision setting our sights until the year 2000. The committee hopes the plan, in its final form, will be available to the general membership this fall.



## **PRESIDENT'S CORNER**

The past spring and summer have been busy and interesting months for all of us involved with the Society, resulting in both some major accomplishments and in some major disappointments.

The village Fair was a rousing success thanks particularly to our chairman, Debbie Moore, who did a really fantastic job of organizing and overseeing a fun-filled day for the whole family. The Woman's Committee, which focused its energies on the Garage Sale and Jewelry Sale, also deserves a special thanks for their outstanding contribution to the success of the day. All of the members who organized and manned the various booths enjoyed a particularly lovely early summer Saturday and benefited the Society in a major way as well. The thanks of the entire Society are extended to those who contributed to the success of the fair by working it, by donating to it, or by simply attending and buying from our booths.

In the area of disappointments has come news from the N.J. Historical Commission that we would not receive any funding for our Costume Conservation Project. Although the Commission was favorably impressed with our collection and our need, they, like all State agencies, have experienced a major budget reduction and as a result have much less money available. We are re-applying to the Commission for a scaled-down project. We are still committed to the proper conservation of all of our collections, although it appears that we we'll have to do it primarily with our own funds over a period of the next few years.

The reality of the current financial situation has caused another disappointment for the Society as well. We have been privileged to have had the benefit of the professionalism and experience of Debby Troemner as our administrator for the past year. Debby has been a source of support and assistance for the officers and members of the Society over the last eleven months and a continuing presence in Greenfield Hall. She has become a true friend to the Society. Unfortunately, in order to continue to function with a balanced budget, the Society has to reduce its expenditures. The Executive Council has regretfully concluded that the Society is not able at the present time to either organizationally or financially continue to employ a professional level employee and has decided instead to seek a Secretary/Docent to assist the Society at this time. Fortunately, Debby has indicated that her involvement with the Society, particularly in the area of costume conservation and acquisitions, will continue. We have been most fortunate to have had Debby as an employee and will continue to benefit from her friendship and involvement in the years to come.

Not wishing to dwell on finances, but in a somewhat related vein, I would like to close with a request that everyone support the Society's auction on October 7th with donations of articles for the auction as well as with their presence at the big event. We need everyone's support for a successful and enjoyable day !!!

## **LIBRARY NOTES**

The library has had an active spring and summer and will re-open on Tuesday, September 11th at 9:30 am. Beginning this fall the library will be open on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and on the second Monday evenings of each month from 7 to 9 p.m.

At the present time I am happy to report that the New Jersey Newspaper Project, which is a project to microfilm all of the old New Jersey Newspapers, has taken a number of the Society's old Haddonfield Newspapers which have not previously been microfilmed and is in the process of microfilming them. Since the Haddonfield Public Library and the Historical Society Library combined all of their old titles in order to have as complete as possible collections, both libraries will be receiving copies of the microfilm when the filming is completed. This is a major step forward for our newspaper collection since a number of the Haddon Gazettes from the World War I period were so fragile they were virtually unusable.

Finally, the library will be working in close cooperation with the Advanced U.S. History class at Haddonfield Memorial High School beginning this fall, working with the students on historical research methods and introducing the students to some of the important primary sources of local history available in our collection. The teacher of the course, Mrs. Kolodi, has been working with the Society over the summer to truly try and make "History Come Alive" for this talented class of high school students.

### **MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL NOTICES**

Membership renewals will be mailed in late September. Please return your renewal form as soon as possible. Sending a second notice costs the Society extra money. Help us save that money for more important things.



## **WOMEN'S COMMITTEE IS HAPPY TO REPORT.....**

The cabinets planned early this year by the Women's Committee to replace the old laundry tubs at the back entrance to Greenfield Hall have been installed. The beautiful wood cabinets will be a tremendous asset to the committee's storage capacity. A very large thank you to Tom Applegate, who installed the cabinets, for a superb job.

## **SECRETARY/DOCENT APPLICATIONS SOUGHT**

At the direction of the Executive Council, the Personnel Committee is seeking applications for the part time position of Secretary/Docent for the Historical Society. The position requires a responsible, self-motivated, dynamic individual with good typing and telephone skills and an interest in local history. The successful applicant will perform secretarial duties for the Society, oversee daily opening of Greenfield Hall, and be available to give tours of the building in the absence of other docents. Hours will be four hours per day, five days per week for a total of twenty hours per week. Those interested in applying should send a resume to the Personnel Committee, Historical Society of Haddonfield, 343 Kings Highway East, Haddonfield, NJ 08033.

### ***A Brief Biography of John Lewis Rowand***

*Among the most important and most used collections of family papers in the library of the Historical Society are the Rowand Family Papers. These papers cover over one hundred years of work by three generations of one family which was involved in settling estates, conveying land, and insuring and surveying property from Haddonfield to Atlantic City. These papers have been of immeasurable use to many who have researched the histories of their homes and the people who lived in them.*

*The following article was written by Sarah Shivers Murray in 1930 and gives some insight into the character of J. Lewis Rowand, probably the most important family insofar as the papers of the Historical Society are concerned.*

### **§ JOHN LEWIS ROWAND §**

John Lewis Rowand was born in 1835 at Rowantown, now Westmont, the son of Jacob L. and Lydia Clement Rowand. In 1845 when he was ten years old, the family had all their goods packed up ready to move to Haddonfield on March 25th, the accepted moving day for this section of the country. A heavy snowstorm falling, however, the road from Rowantown to Haddonfield was impassible for one whole week!

J. Lewis Rowand as he always wrote his name, was sui generis; no one like him ever lived in Haddonfield. A fair estimate of this life can only be given by taking into account the marked contrasts in his nature. His pugnacity, impatience of contradiction, fickleness and brusque manners were balanced by his absolute honesty and kindness of heart. The late Judge Clement once said, "Lew Rowand is ruled entirely by his prejudices, so naturally his judgement of men and events is a biased one. But he is a much better man in every way than was his father."

When he was a young man this town was but a small village, lacking excitement, and the quarrels, love affairs and adventures of Lewis Rowand afforded the people much amusement, relieving the deadly monotony of their lives. Everybody knew everybody else and what happened was discussed by all.

Rowand dearly loved an argument. When it became so heated that words failed him, his fists were brought into use with convincing effect. One never-to-be forgotten fight in the village store between Lewis and a workman named Craig started on some question of politics, ended with Lewis the victor; and Craig, the vanquished, picking up his battered "wide awake" hat from the middle of the street. The townspeople were really grateful to these men for affording them such entertainment.

The affairs of the heart, unerringly Rowan's fancy led him in the direction of the frail, delicate, clinging vine type of woman. A few of them were carried to early graves. One old woman gossip was wont to say, "It appears to me that Lew Rowand has attended the funerals of more young girls, as chief mourner than any young man I ever heard tell of."

Rowand's taste in religion was eclectic. He sampled each church in turn, going so far as joining some, but never seeming able to make a final and permanent choice.

In 1883 he accompanied a small party on a trip to Europe. Before many weeks has passed he had fallen out with one member of the group so seriously that they did not speak to each other for the remainder of the trip. At the same time he became so infatuated with another one of the party that he afforded amusement for the others all the rest of the time.

During his middle life, while he was settling a man's estate he had frequently to meet the widow, who was densely ignorant of the first principles of business. At each meeting of the two he would become so impatient at her ignorance that she was invariably dissolved in tears. Finally at the last meeting, she brought down on her head a double deluge of wrath, for in her distress she had signed her maiden name to an important document! But at the end of the interview he advanced from his own pocket, money for all her needs until such time as funds from the estate should be available.

(Continued on page 4.)



**HAVE YOU CONSIDERED.....**

Becoming a *Sustaining Member*?...or subscribing to a *Life Membership*?

Life members are listed permanently on  
a plaque in the foyer of Greenfield Hall. The renewal notice indicated the  
cost for all options.

**The Historical Society of Haddonfield**  
343 Kings Highway East  
Haddonfield, New Jersey 08033

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Permit No. 118  
Haddonfield, NJ

***John Lewis Rowand (con't.)***

No one living knows where he attended school. He was a man above the average in intelligence. He had probably made more wills, incontestable ones, than any other man in the county. He acquired an unequaled knowledge of boundaries, and was an expert as a conveyancer. Although he was active in the affairs of the Building and Loan Association from its start, he never displayed any interest in any movement for the advance of the community nor any advocacy of any worthy cause. His interest centered entirely in his business and in his home. One who was the family physician for many years has written, "I have known Lew Rowand as long as I can remember. He had peculiarities like the rest of us but he had a heart of gold." He was universally respected and trusted, and even in spite of this gruffness, liked. He was one of nature's nobleman.